Film 'Democracy and Money Power' become outdated

2168. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1538 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st August, 1991 and State, what are the considerations for treating the documentary "Democracy and Money Power" outdated?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): As stated in the reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1358 dated 01-08-91 the said programme is considered out-dated taking into account the participants in the programme, the relevancy, requirement and the specific events which it dealt with.

Reduction in Entertainment Tax

2169. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Film Federation of India in the recent past for reducing the percentage of entertainment tax being charged from the cinema goers; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of legislative powers for the States and the Union Government under the Constitution gives complete powers to the State Governments in the matter of levy of entertainment tax for exhibition of films. The Central Government do not have statutory powers to issue directions to State Governments for levying entertainment tax. The Central Government has written to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on 19-2-90, 15-3-90, 26-12-90, 30-1-91, 8-2-91, 19-2-91, 5-3-91, 4-6-91, and 26-6-91, inter-alia, to take steps to reduce the entertainment tax.

Discontinuation of Broadcast beamed to Myanmar

2170. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burmese broadcast beamed to Myanmar by Than Thanu, has been dicontinued;

(b) if not, the circumstances accounting for the splurge of report in the print media to this effect; and

(c) if so, in what manner does it accord with the Prime Minister's fulsome praise of the award of the Noble Peace Prize to Aungsan su kyi, leader of Burman Leage for Democracy now in detention by the Burmese military junta?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMAR GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The programmes of the Burmese service of the External Services Division of All India Radio have not been discontinued. However, the scope and frequency of commentaries on Current Affairs have been modified. Ms. Than Than Nu continues to work with the External Services Division of All India Radio.

(b) The press reports appeared to be the result of inadequate awareness of the actual changes made.

(c) India's support for the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar remains firm and consistent. The Prime Minister's message of felicitation to Mrs. Anug San Suu Kyi on her being conferred this year's Nobel Peace Prize and India's recent statement calling for her immediate and unconditional release and support for the cause of democracy and respect for human rights in Myanmar are further evidence of India's principled stand. However, India remains committed to refrain from actions which may be construed as interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar.